

skills critical to national security or community health and safety. This could take the form of an initial "self-declaration" as a part of the registration process. Men and women would enter on the SSS registration form a multi-digit number representing their specific critical skill (e.g., similar to military occupational specialty or Armed Forces Specialty Code with Skill Identifier), taken from a lengthy list of skills to be compiled and published by the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security. Individuals proficient in more than one critical skill would list the practiced skill in which they have the greatest degree of experience and competency. They would also be required to update reported information as necessary until they reach age 35. This unique data base would provide the military (and national, state, and municipal government agencies) with immediately available links to vital human resources . . . in effect, a single, most accurate and complete, national inventory of young Americans with special skills.

While the data base's "worst-case" use might be to draft such personnel into military or homeland security assignments during a national mobilization, its very practical peacetime use could be to support recruiting and direct marketing campaigns aimed at encouraging skilled personnel to volunteer for community or military service opportunities, and to consider applying for hard-to-fill public sector jobs. Local government agencies could also tap this data base to locate nearby specialists for help with domestic crises and emergency situations.

With the changes described above, SSS programs would be modified to serve the contemporary needs of several customers: Department of Defense; Department of Homeland Security (FEMA, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs, INS); Corporation for National Service, Public Health Service, and other federal and state agencies seeking personnel with critical skills for national security or community service assignments. The SSS would thus play a more vital, relevant, and immediate role in shoring up America's strength and readiness in peace and war.

#### *II. Are today's SSS capabilities in sync with DoD needs?*

A. Is there a need to preserve the capability of conducting a draft of untrained manpower? If so, is the time frame still M+193?

B. How likely is it that DoD will need SSS to conduct a Health Care draft?

C. Now severe are any other critical skills shortages in the military?

D. Are the Clinton-era's abstract reasons for preserving the SSS and peacetime registration still valid?

E. Would DoD still fight any and all Congressional initiatives to cut or eliminate the SSS?

#### *III. Consider restructuring the SSS to address contemporary national security needs*

A. Focus might be on relieving critical skills shortages

B. Include potential service to DHS and other government agencies that must attract/recruit skilled personnel.

C. Explore the feasibility of developing a single-point data base of virtually all young Americans, 18 through 34 years old, immediately identifiable by critical skills possessed and practiced. Data base could be used for a draft in war and for recruiting in peacetime.

1. Would require modification of SSS mission and changes to authorizing law.

2. Cost considerations.

#### *IV. Next steps—Statement of Administration Policy needed*

A. DoD decides what services it needs and wants from SSS: Three options for consideration:

1. SSS status quo; however, redefine the DoD mission guidance and time lines to make the SSS more relevant to DoD's needs and the SECDEF's policy. The current guidance of providing untrained inductees at M+193 runs counter to the SECDEF's views and is out-of-sync with possible wartime scenarios.

2. Return the SSS to "Deep Standby" status. If a draft of any kind is highly unlikely and undesirable, eliminate peacetime registration and dismiss the 10,000 trained volunteer Board Members. However, should a draft be needed, it would take more than a year to get the system capable of conducting a fair and equitable draft from Deep Standby status.

3. Restructure the SSS and shift its peacetime focus to accommodate DoD's most likely requirements in a crisis. Plan for conducting a more likely draft of individuals with special and critical skills.

a. Minimum requirement: SSS mission guidance and time lines must be redefined promptly by DoD to allow more relevant pre-mobilization planning and funding for the possibility of a critical skills draft at M+90 or sooner. Peacetime registration of men 18 through 25 would continue, but consideration would also be given to identifying men with certain critical skills among these year-of-birth groupings. A post-mobilization plan would also be devised and computer programming accomplished for a full-blown critical skills draft. The HCPDS program is completed, brought to the forefront of SSS readiness planning, and tested through exercises. Without a reaffirmation of relevance and adjustment of mission, the SSS will be an easy target for reduction or elimination by detractors in the Congress and the Administration.

b. Expanded pre-mobilization requirement: SSS peacetime registration expanded to include women and men, 18 through 34 years old, and collects information on critical skills within these year-of-birth groupings. Requires change of law and additional funding (see Issue Paper dated 11 Feb 2003).

B. If more examination of the issue and options is needed, consider forming an inter-agency task force to provide the Administration with a policy recommendation. Possible players: DoD, SSS, DHS, NSC, OMB, Corporation for National Service, PHS, others.

C. After suitable analysis, obtain a White House Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) announcing plans for the future of the SSS (course of action 1, 2, or 3, above).

D. If the SSS is to expand its pre-mobilization activities to include registration of women and collection of critical skills identifiers, it will be necessary to market the concept for approval by the Armed Services Committees and Appropriations Committee draft implementing legislation for congressional consideration. The changes will be implemented after the amended law is signed and funding is identified.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. LIPINSKI

##### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to join in this tribute to the many years of public service and the more than 20 years of service here in the House of our colleague BILL LIPINSKI.

I have had the privilege of serving with BILL on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for many years. During this Congress, he has served as the ranking Democrat on the

Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines. Together, we have had to navigate through the often frustrating, confusing and twisting course of the transportation bill reauthorization effort this year and last. BILL has always been a steady partner and a strong defender of the program. He certainly hasn't been reluctant to voice his strong support for increased investment in transportation. He is a great fighter, and we have been lucky to have him on our side during this particular fight. I have valued his advice and counsel these past two years as together we have worked to produce a transportation program that moves our country forward.

Beyond our work together on the Subcommittee, we have worked together on other issues, such as the expansion of O'Hare and many years fighting the whistle ban to protect our towns that had developed around the railroad tracks crisscrossing through our districts.

Apart from the Committee activities, BILL has been a tireless advocate for his constituents. He was born on the southwest side of Chicago, and he truly knows and understands his district. Prior to coming to Washington, BILL was a Chicago City alderman and he still is a Ward committeeman—a good education for any member of this House!

So I want to acknowledge BILL's courage, his strength in standing by his convictions, and his love for the city of Chicago. He has had a real impact, and his successes can be seen all over the city—whether riding the "el" or landing on a plane at Midway.

I wish him and his wife, Rose Marie, all the best on his retirement. He has been a valuable member of the House, and we will miss him.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. BILL LIPINSKI

##### HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in a tribute to my good friend, BILL LIPINSKI, who has made countless contributions to the State of Illinois and to the country during his years serving in the House.

George Washington is quoted as saying, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these." I believe BILL LIPINSKI modeled his Congressional career around this quote.

BILL's efforts in transforming our country's transportation infrastructure, especially that in the State of Illinois, has made every American's life a little easier by more efficient travel. Throughout the years, BILL and I have worked together on several transportation projects, from Metra expansion to road projects. In working with him on each of these projects, he showed great leadership, but most of all he showed great friendship. It is for this that I admire BILL the most. He could look past the harsh realities of partisan politics and work with me to help residents within my district. I will be eternally grateful not only for BILL's support of the projects he and I worked on but also for his friendship.

Another thing I will always remember BILL for is his independence. While BILL is a loyal